ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS In the Matter of the Escrow Agent License of: No. 08F-BD059-SBD SECURITY TITLE AGENCY, INC.

dba SECURITY TITLE AGENCY 3636 North Central Avenue, Suite 140 Phoenix, AZ 85012

Respondent.

On, January 7, 2008, the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions ("Department") issued an Order to Cease and Desist; Notice of Opportunity For Hearing; Consent to Entry of Order, alleging that Respondent had violated Arizona law. Wishing to resolve this matter in lieu of an administrative hearing and without admitting liability, Respondent consents to the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and consents to the entry of the following Order.

CONSENT ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent Security Title Agency, Inc. dba Security Title Agency ("Security Title") is an Arizona corporation authorized to transact business in Arizona as an escrow agent, license number EA-000878, within the meaning of A.R.S. §§ 6-801, et seq. The nature of Respondent's business is that of engaging in or carrying on the escrow business or acting in the capacity of an escrow agent within the meaning of A.R.S. § 6-801(6).
 - 2. Henry N. Fajkowski ("Mr. Fajkowski") is the President of Security Title.
- 3. On or around September 5, 2006, the Department conducted an examination of Security Title's business affairs. As a result of the examination, the Department discovered the following; Respondent:
- a. Failed to timely produce two files from Scottsdale Forum, Branch #44 and one file from Sun City, Branch #80, and did not produce one file from Raintree, Branch #47;
 - b. Failed to obtain and maintain adequate escrow file documentation;
- c. Failed to account properly for escrow property by improperly disbursing escrow funds;

- d. Failed to maintain an adequate internal control structure; specifically:
 - i. An examination of the following escrow files, set forth below, revealed that Respondent for twenty-two (22) files located at Branch #47, Raintree and for thirteen (13) files located at Branch #31, Colter:
 - Failed to account properly for escrow property as required by the terms of the escrow;
 - Failed to disburse funds in accordance with the provisions of the HUD-1 escrow;
 - 3. Failed to maintain an adequate internal control structure;
 - 4. Failed to follow written escrow instructions;
 - 5. Disbursed uncollected funds prematurely;
 - 6. Failed to deposit escrow monies immediately upon receipt, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable; and
 - 7. Failed to file suspicious activity reports with the Attorney General's Office;
 - Disbursed \$1,335,190.39 (One million, three hundred thirty five thousand, one hundred ninety dollars and thirty nine cents) contrary to the provisions of HUD-1 escrow statements or written escrow instructions.
- e. Failed to properly label three (3) fiduciary checking accounts; specifically:
 - Two (2) Account Servicing bank accounts containing Arizona escrow
 transactions and balances were not adequately labeled as trust, escrow or any
 other fiduciary label to indicate that the funds were fiduciary funds of the
 escrow agent;
 - ii. One (1) Default Servicing bank account containing Arizona escrow transactions and balances was not adequately labeled as trust, escrow or any other fiduciary label to indicate that the funds were fiduciary funds of the

escrow agent; and

- iii. Respondent failed to correct this violation from the previous examination;
- f. Failed to maintain a separate escrow trust bank account; specifically:
 - i. Security Title has eight (8) escrow trust accounts at Chase Bank, and subsequently opened eight (8) escrow accounts (analyzed checking accounts) at Bank of America. Funds of three to five million dollars (\$3,000,000.00 5,000,000.00) have been withdrawn from Respondent's escrow trust accounts at Chase Bank and deposited into the Bank of America analyzed checking accounts. As the balances in the Chase Bank escrow trust accounts decrease, money is withdrawn from the Bank of America analyzed checking accounts and transferred back into the Chase Bank accounts;
 - ii. The practice described above has resulted in a violation of the Good Funds Law. Respondent failed to maintain appropriate balances in each account to cover the outstanding checks and outgoing wires.
- g. Failed to provide adequate follow-up on eleven thousand, eight hundred two (11,802) stale-dated outstanding checks totaling \$2,573,734.48;
 - i. Respondent failed to correct this violation from the previous examination;
 - h. Failed to maintain a positive escrow balance; specifically:
 - i. The Account Servicing Department had a NSF item for \$656.02 that occurred on July 28, 2006 and was not covered until August 4, 2006;
 - i. Failed to keep passwords confidential; specifically:
 - i. The staff at Sun City Branch #80 knows each other's passwords. When logging onto the computer, the system recognizes the person by the password used and not by the person actually logging on. The employees have the ability to log-on as someone else. This provides branch employees with the ability to remove, misappropriate or misdirect escrow funds without timely detection; and

- ii. Respondent failed to correct this violation from the previous examination;
- j. Failed to record all escrow deposits in a timely manner; specifically:
 - i. Included in Escrow file #47-3464 is a copy of an incoming wire form, #1052665 for \$10,000.00 dated 12-5-05. It does not show as an incoming wire or any type of receipt on the Receipts and Disbursements log and the Accounting Department could not locate or confirm that the wire was ever received or recorded; and
 - ii. Included in Escrow file #47-4527 is Escrow Receipt #644222, dated 11-16-06 and documenting \$2,000.00 Chase Bank N.A. official check earnest money deposit of the buyer, Deborah Bredenberg. The Receipts and Disbursements Ledger, created, maintained and under the sole control of Escrow Officer Chris Bartlemus, indicated the posting date of this check was 11-28-06, twelve (12) days after the true receipt of the funds. The Escrow Receipt was also shown as posted to Security Title's official escrow accounting receipts and disbursement system ledger on 11-28-06;
- k. Failed to provide adequate follow-up on outstanding escrow balances aged in excess of six (6) months;
 - i. Respondent failed to correct this violation from the previous examination;
- l. Failed to properly account for escrow property by failing to escheat outstanding escrow accounts more than five (5) years old; specifically:
 - i. Four (4) escrow files totaling \$1,295.00 which should have been escheated in November 2005 were cleared at the end of August, 2006;
- m. Failed to provide supporting documentation for Express Mail/Courier fees; specifically:
 - i. The Main Branch failed to provide supporting documentation for two (2) files;
 - ii. The Tatum and Greenway Branch failed to provide supporting documentation for two (2) files;

ich	#26	devi	ated:	from	the	filed	and	appro	ved	rates;
31	devi	ated	from	the	filed	l and	appı	roved	rate	s;

iv.	The Tatum and Greenway	Branch #32	deviated fro	om the f	iled and a	pproved
	rates:					

- v. The Scottsdale Forum Branch #44 deviated from the filed and approved rates;
- vi. The Chandler Branch #46 deviated from the filed and approved rates;
- vii. The Fiesta Branch #65 deviated from the filed and approved rates;
- viii. The Palm Valley Branch #85 deviated from the filed and approved rates;
 - ix. The Sun City Branch #80 deviated from the filed and approved rates;
 - x. The Wickenburg Branch #98 deviated from the filed and approved rates; and
 - xi. The Account Servicing Branch made one (1) undercharge totaling \$15.00;
- u. Failed to document the escrow recorded date in escrow files; specifically:
 - i. Five branches failed to document the escrow recorded date in a total of eighteen (18) escrow files; specifically:
 - 1. The Park Place Branch #26 failed to document the escrow recorded date in one (1) escrow file;
 - The Colter Branch #31 failed to document the escrow recorded date in six (6) escrow files;
 - 3. The Chandler Branch #46 failed to document the escrow recorded date in six (6) files;
 - 4. The Sun City Branch #80 failed to document the escrow recorded date in one (1) file; and
 - 5. The Wickenburg Branch #98 failed to document the escrow recorded date in four (4) files; and
 - ii. Respondent failed to correct this violation from the previous examination;
- v. Failed to maintain detailed escrow fee calculation worksheets in sufficient detail, in the escrow files, to document each escrow officer's calculation of escrow fees;
- w. Failed to maintain detailed Email docs charges in sufficient detail in the escrow files, to document each escrow officer's Email doc fees;

- x. Failed to record one (1) Trustee's Deed in the county in which the trust property is located within fifteen (15) business days after the date of sale; specifically:
 - i. The Trustee's sale for Account 14-49473 was 7-20-06, but the Trustee's Deed was not recorded until 8-17-06; and
- y. Failed to maintain certain internal control procedures to ensure that persons employed by or associated with Respondent's business do not make significant errors or perpetuate significant irregularities or fraud without timely detection; specifically:
 - i. All branches visited had different interpretations of the filed rates;
 - ii. In certain limited circumstances, the internal procedures for outstanding checks and escrow items greater than six months old were not followed; and
 - iii. Respondent has internal procedures posted on its website; however, there seems to be some confusion at the branch level, as some branches are not aware of these procedures and others did not know where to retrieve the procedures.
- 4. The Department has found no evidence that Respondent's violations were willful or intentional.
 - 5. These Findings of Fact shall also serve as Conclusions of Law.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-801, *et seq.*, the Superintendent has the authority and duty to regulate all persons engaged in the escrow agent business and with the enforcement of statutes, rules, and regulations relating to escrow agents.
 - 2. By the conduct set forth above, Security Title Agency violated the following:
 - a. A.R.S. §§ 6-837(B) and 6-123(3) by failing to produce at least one exam file;
 - b. A.R.S. §§ 6-837(B) and 6-841(B) by failure to maintain adequate escrow file documentation;
 - c. A.R.S. §§ 6-841, 6-834(A), and 6-841.01 by failing to properly account for escrow property by improper disbursement of escrow funds;

- d. A.R.S. § 6-841 by failure to maintain an adequate internal control structure; specifically:
 - A.R.S. § 6-834(A) by failing to properly account for escrow property as required by the terms of the escrow;
 - 2. A.R.S. § 6-834(A), and A.R.S. § 6-841 by failure to disburse funds in accordance with the provisions of the HUD-1 escrow;
 - 3. A.R.S. § 6-841 by failing to adopt a systematic internal control structure;
 - 4. A.R.S. § 6-834(A) and A.R.S. § 6-841 by failing to follow written escrow instructions;
 - 5. A.R.S. § 6-843 by disbursing uncollected funds prematurely;
 - 6. A.R.S. § 6-834(A) by failing to deposit escrow monies immediately upon receipt, or as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable; and
 - 7. A.R.S. § 6-1241(A) by failure to file suspicious activity reports with the Attorney General' office.
- e. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A), 6-843, 6-841(A), and 6-841(B), and A.A.C. R20-4-702 and A.A.C. R20-4-704, by failing to properly label three (3) fiduciary checking accounts;
- f. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A), 6-843, 6-841(A), and 6-841(B), and A.A.C. R20-4-702 and A.A.C. R20-4-704, by failing to maintain a separate escrow trust bank account;
- g. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A), 6-843, 6-841(A), and 6-841(B), and A.A.C. R20-4-702 and A.A.C. R20-4-704, by failing to provide adequate follow-up on stale-dated outstanding checks;
- h. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A), 6-843, 6-841(A), and 6-841(B), and A.A.C. R20-4-702 and A.A.C. R20-4-704, by failing to maintain a positive escrow balance;
- i. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A), 6-843, 6-841(A), and 6-841(B), and A.A.C. R20-4-702 and A.A.C. R20-4-704, by failing to keep passwords confidential;
- j. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A), 6-843, 6-841(A), and 6-841(B), and A.A.C. R20-4-702 and A.A.C. R20-4-704, by failing to record all escrow deposits in a timely manner;

- k. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A) and 6-841 and A.A.C R20-4-704, by failing to provide adequate follow up on outstanding escrow balances aged in excess of six (6) months;
- 1. A.R.S. §§ 6-834(A), 6-841 and 44-302, by failing to properly account for escrow property by failing to escheat outstanding escrow accounts more than five (5) years old;
- m. A.R.S. § 6-841(B) and A.A.C. R20-4-702, by failing to provide supporting documentation for Express Mail/Courier fees;
- n. A.R.S. § 6-834(D) and A.A.C. R20-4-702, by failing in certain limited files to provide each depositing buyer or seller, within three (3) business days after receipt of deposited monies, adequate notice of their right to earn interest on all monies deposited into the escrow;
- o. A.R.S. §§ 6-817(A)(12), 6-841(A) and 6-841(B), by failing to perform a routine inventory on unused checks;
- p. A.R.S. § 6-841.02(A), by failing in certain limited files to disclose to the buyers and sellers of residential dwellings that the title insurance underwriter may offer a closing protection letter that provides protection for loss of escrow monies due to fraud or dishonesty of the escrow agent;
- q. A.R.S. § 6-841.03, by failing in certain limited files to disclose to the buyers and sellers of residential dwellings, not later than three (3) business days after receipt of any funds, that monies deposited into an escrow account are not insured against loss from fraud or theft, by this State or the United Stated Government;
- r. A.R.S. §§ 6-843(A) and 6-843(B), by disbursing funds that were not available for withdrawal from the escrow account;
- s. A.R.S. § 6-846.01(A), by failing to charge parties to numerous escrow files the exact third-party pass-through costs;
- t. A.R.S. § 6-846.04(A), by deviating numerous times from their filed and approved escrow rates in an amount totaling \$15,000.00;

- u. A.R.S. § 6-831 and A.A.C. R20-4-702, by failing to document the escrow recorded date in escrow files;
- v. A.R.S. § 6-831 and A.A.C. R20-4-702, by failing to maintain detailed escrow fee calculation worksheets in sufficient detail, in the escrow files, to document each escrow officer's calculation of escrow fees;
- w. A.R.S. § 6-831 and A.A.C. R20-4-702, by failing to maintain detailed Email docs charges in sufficient detail in the escrow files, to document each escrow officer's Email doc fees;
- x. A.R.S. § 33-810(A), by failing to record one (1) Trustee's Deed in the county in which the trust property is located within fifteen (15) business days after the date of sale; and
- y. A.R.S. §§ 6-817(A)(12) and 6-841(B), by failing in certain limited files to maintain certain internal control procedures to ensure that persons employed by or associated with Respondent's business do not make significant errors or perpetuate significant irregularities or fraud without timely detection.
- 3. Respondent has not conducted business in accordance with the law and violated Title 6, Chapter 7 and the rules relating to this chapter, which are grounds for license suspension or revocation pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-817(A)(2).
- 4. Respondent failed to account properly for escrow property, which is grounds for license suspension or revocation pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-817(A)(7).
- 5. Respondent failed within a reasonable time to produce at least four (4) exam files from different branch locations and failed to maintain adequate escrow file documentation, which is grounds for license suspension or revocation pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-817(A)(8).
- 6. Respondent disbursed monies in violation of escrow instructions, which is grounds for license suspension or revocation pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-817(A)(11).
- 7. Respondent has failed to maintain an adequate internal control structure, which is grounds for license suspension or revocation pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-817(A)(12).

8. The violations of applicable laws, set forth above, constitute grounds for: (1) the issuance of an order pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-137 directing Respondent to cease and desist from the violative conduct and to take the appropriate affirmative actions, within a reasonable period of time prescribed by the Superintendent, to correct the conditions resulting from the unlawful acts, practices, and transactions; (2) the imposition of a civil monetary penalty pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-132; (3) the suspension or revocation of Respondent's license pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-817; and (4) an order or any other remedy necessary or proper for the enforcement of statutes and rules regulating escrow agents pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 6-123 and 6-131.

ORDER

- 1. Security Title shall immediately stop the violations set forth in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. Security Title:
 - a. Shall promptly produce escrow files upon request;
 - b. Shall maintain all escrow records for at least three years after final disbursement of funds;
 - c. Shall adopt a systematic internal control structure and shall properly account for all escrow property;
 - d. Shall obtain and maintain adequate escrow file documentation and shall properly account for escrow property by properly disbursing escrow funds;
 - e. Shall adopt a systematic internal control structure to ensure that persons employed by or associated with the escrow agent's business do not make significant errors or perpetuate significant irregularities or fraud without timely detection;
 - f. Shall adopt a systematic internal control structure to ensure that written escrow instructions are appropriately complied with;
 - g. Shall adopt a systematic internal control structure to ensure that uncollected funds are not disbursed prematurely;

States Government;

- x. Shall not disburse funds that are not available for withdrawal from the escrow account;
- y. Shall charge parties to escrow files the exact third-party pass-through costs;
- z. Shall not deviate from the filed and approved escrow rates;
- aa. Shall document the escrow recorded date in escrow files;
- bb. Shall maintain detailed escrow fee calculation worksheets in sufficient detail, in the escrow files, to document each escrow officer's calculation of escrow fees;
- cc. Shall maintain detailed Email docs charges in sufficient detail in the escrow files, to document each escrow officer's Email doc fees;
- dd. Shall record Trustee's Deeds in the county in which the trust property is located within fifteen (15) business days after the date of sale; and
- ee. Shall maintain certain internal control procedures to ensure that persons employed by or associated with Respondent's business do not make significant errors or perpetuate significant irregularities or fraud without timely detection.
- 2. Security Title shall refund all overcharges of five dollars (\$5.00) or more to the appropriate escrow parties, provide copies of the refund checks to the Superintendent, and advise the Superintendent what steps Respondent has taken to prevent future overcharges and undercharges of exact third-party pass-through costs and deviations. If specific proof of lack of deviation is provided to the Department and if the Department agrees with the proof provided then, and in that event, Security Title shall not be responsible for overcharges of five dollars (\$5.00) or more.
- 3. Security Title shall remit a penalty to the Superintendent in an amount equal to the total deviations of **fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000.00)**, pursuant to A.R.S. § 6-846.04(B).
- 4. Security Title shall immediately pay to the Department a civil money penalty in the amount of two hundred twenty five thousand dollars (\$225,000.00).
- 5. Security Title shall immediately pay to the Department an examination fee in the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00).

- 6. The provisions of this Order shall be binding upon Respondent, its employees, agents and other persons participating in the conduct of the affairs of Respondent.
- 7. This Order shall become effective upon service, and shall remain effective and enforceable until such time as, and except to the extent that, it shall be stayed, modified, terminated, or set aside.

Felecia A. Rotellini Superintendent of Financial Institutions

By: Robert D. Charlton

Robert D. Charlton

Assistant Superintendent of Financial Institutions

CONSENT TO ENTRY OF ORDER

- 1. Respondent acknowledges that it has been served with a copy of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order in the above-referenced matter, has read the same, is aware of its right to an administrative hearing in this matter, and has waived the same.
- 2. Respondent admits the jurisdiction of the Superintendent and consent to the entry of the foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order.
- 3. Respondent states that no promise of any kind or nature has been made to induce it to consent to the entry of this Order, and that it has done so voluntarily.
- 4. Respondent agrees to cease from engaging in the violative conduct set forth above in the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
- 5. Respondent acknowledges that the acceptance of this Agreement by the Superintendent is solely to settle this matter and does not preclude this Department, any other agency or officer of this state or subdivision thereof from instituting other proceedings as may be appropriate now or in the future.
- 6. Henry N. Fajkowski, President, on behalf of Security Title Agency, Inc., represents that he is the President, and that, as such, has been authorized by Security Title Agency, Inc. to consent to the entry of this Order on its behalf.

1	7. Respondent waives all rights to seek judicial review or otherwise to challenge or contest the
2	validity of this Cease and Desist Order.
3	DATED this Je day of March , 2008.
4	Du Hand Parlace
5	By: Henry N. Fajkowski President
6	Security Title Agency
7	ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed this 20 day of 2008, in the office of:
8	Felecia A. Rotellini Superintendent of Financial Institutions
9	Arizona Department of Financial Institutions ATTN: Susan L. Longo
10	2910 N. 44th Street, Suite 310 Phoenix, AZ 85018
11	COPY mailed/delivered same date to:
12	Craig A. Raby, Assistant Attorney General
13	Office of the Attorney General 1275 West Washington
14	Phoenix, AZ 85007
15	Robert D. Charlton, Assistant Superintendent Richard Carpenter, Senior Examiner
16	Peggy Prill, Senior Examiner Arizona Department of Financial Institutions
17	2910 N. 44th Street, Suite 310 Phoenix, AZ 85018
18	
19	AND COPY MAILED SAME DATE by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to:
20	Security Title Agency, Inc.
21	c/o Henry N. Fajkowski, President 3636 North Central Avenue, Suite 140
22	Phoenix, AZ 85012
23	James J. Belanger, Esq. Cheifetz Iannitelli Marcoloni, P.C.
24	1850 North Central Avenue, 19 th Floor Phoenix, AZ 85004
	Attorneys for Respondent
25	